

# The Rock

*Serving the more than  
6,000 employees & residents  
on Arsenal Island*



November 2003

Volume 2, Number 9

## Veterans Day honors those who still serve

By Patricia Ryan  
Editor

The sun filtered through clouds blanketing the Rock Island National Cemetery and cast a silvery light as the ceremony honoring Veterans past and present began at 1:00 p.m. November 11. The theme "A Tribute to Those Who Still Serve" was the common thread that connected the speakers as thoughts of soldiers fighting on distant shores today was on the minds of everyone present. Retired Sgt. Maj. John C. Hernstrom, U.S. Marine Corps spoke of looking out over the cemetery and fantasizing about walking shoulder to shoulder with fallen comrades.

Mr. Rick Anderson, Director of the Rock Island National Cemetery, welcomed everyone including veterans of many U.S. wars. He introduced the speakers while praising the



Photos by Patricia Ryan

**Munro and Hernstrom place a Wreath of Honor at the base of the flagpole commemorating all American Veterans.**

Americans who paid with their lives for the freedoms we enjoy everyday. Keynote Speaker Mr. Steve Muro, Director, Office of Field Programs, National Cemetery Administration, praised all who serve past and present. Muro spoke of how our freedoms to protest, disagree and even desecrate the flag are paid for by the blood of our brave troops.

The Quad Cities Chapter 299 Vietnam Veterans Association provided an Honor Salute that was followed by Taps played by Mr. John Adams at the close of the ceremony. Veterans of many conflicts as well as family members and people from the community gathered and spoke quietly in groups while many people strolled the cemetery grounds in quiet contemplation and respect for those who died in service to our country.



**Mr. John Adams, American Legion Post 26, Davenport, Iowa, played taps as the autumn mist began to settle over the cemetery.**

## A time to be truly thankful

**T**hanksgiving is one of our oldest traditions. The first Thanksgiving dates back to 1621 when the colonists and the Wampanoag Indians shared their fall harvest. When George Washington issued the first national proclamation on Thanksgiving to the nation in 1789, he asked the new country to give thanks for their unity and peace.

While the United States has changed significantly since that first proclamation, the spirit of Thanksgiving remains the same. It is a time to be with family and friends, and to remember all that we have to be thankful for as individuals and as a nation.

Today we are a nation at



war against terrorism, aggressively rooting out those that would use any means to destroy those principles of freedom and democracy that are currently taking root in Southwest Asia and elsewhere around the world. America stands as a beacon to all countries. Through the efforts of our nation throughout history, the gifts of freedom and democracy have flourished.

When I was stationed in Belgium, I had the opportunity to take a Boy Scout Troop to Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. Interred at this cemetery are 7,989 American military who gave their lives during World War II. While I was standing outside the memorial chapel, I met an elderly Belgian. He had been coming to the cemetery since the end of the war to pay his respects and express his appreciation for what America did for him and his country. You can imagine the pride I felt that day being an American, and how



**Col. Mike Mullins**  
**Rock Island Arsenal Commander**

thankful I was for the sacrifices of all those who laid in rest before me.

As you enjoy this Thanksgiving, take a moment to remember those men and women who can't be with their families and say a prayer for their safe and quick return. And most of all, remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Charlotte and I wish you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable holiday.

### The Rock

THE ROCK is an unofficial publication for members of the Rock Island Arsenal community. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Arsenal or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of THE ROCK is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Rock Island Arsenal. Contributions to the ROCK are welcome: Postal address: Commander, Rock Island Arsenal, RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. E-mail address: RIA-PA@ria.army.mil. Phone: 309-782-1121. The circulation of the ROCK is approximately 4,000. The ROCK available on-line at the Rock Island website at [www.ria.army.mil](http://www.ria.army.mil).

### Rock Island Arsenal

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# ARMS Initiative Earns Corporate Award



The U.S. Army Armament Retooling and Manufacturing Support (ARMS) Initiative was presented with the “Global Innovations by New Players in Corporate Real Estate” award at the CoreNet Global Summit conference in Atlanta on October 16, 2003.

The initiative, better known as ARMS, is administered for the government at the headquarters of the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command on Arsenal Island. CoreNet - shorthand for “Corporate Real Estate Network” - is a professional association of corporate real estate professionals that acts as a global learning organization and provides programs and services to meet the business needs of member companies and the career needs of individual members.

The CoreNet award received by ARMS recognizes new entrants in the corporate real estate industry that develop and apply innovative ideas and practices and make good use of leading-edge technologies and processes.

First authorized by Congress in 1992, ARMS is a defense reuse program designed to attract commercial tenants onto the idle portions of Army ammunition plants. Ten plants currently participate in ARMS. The goals of the

ARMS initiative include reducing the Army’s cost of ownership at participating facilities; maintaining defense capabilities at the ammunition plants; and enhancing economic opportunities within communities surrounding the plants.

The CoreNet awarded ARMS for its innovative practices in the areas of contracting, incentives, community and public-private partnerships, and marketing. Operation Enterprise, the national marketing initiative for ARMS, is run through a partnership with Pendulum Management, a private consulting group.

Under ARMS, incentives such as facility enhancements and loan guarantees can be used to attract commercial tenants into unused office, storage and production space on ammunition plants. Enhancements made under ARMS have included bringing buildings up to current health and safety codes; upgrading electrical service; installing computer connections; and improving accessibility for the disabled.

As a result of ARMS, a wide range of commercial enterprises are now being carried out at participating plants, including the manufacture of fireworks, rocket mo-

tors, dog food, and vehicle airbags and other auto products; the storage of items such as propane and railcars; and forging and machine shop operations.

During 2002, the government funded \$15 million in ARMS incentives and investments. The savings received in return were estimated at \$48 million, and resulted mostly from a reduction in costs associated with facility costs were reduced to zero.

In addition to cost savings, ARMS generated a positive economic impact in local communities that was measured at \$461 million, and sustained more than 3,400 jobs. The ARMS initiative also helped enhance readiness and retain critical skills at the plants, and reduced the potential future costs of property disposal.

The Arsenal Support Program Initiative (ASPI), a parallel program modeled on ARMS, was authorized by Congress in 2001. ASPI is being implemented at the Army’s manufacturing arsenals, including Rock Island Arsenal.

More information on ARMS and Operation Enterprise is available on the Internet, at “[www.openterprise.com](http://www.openterprise.com)”.

**JMC Public Affairs Office**



## LEAN

## Another RIA Rapid Improvement Event

By Jacqueline Chandler, Editor

As part of Lean Manufacturing at Rock Island Arsenal, a Lean team consisting of members of the RIA Lean Team, employees from the production line, and the Commander, Col. Mike Mullins, tackled a Rapid Improvement Event on the production line of the Contact Maintenance Truck Heavy (CMTH) in October.



Photo by Gerald Gomez

**Col. Mullins, the Arsenal Commander, recently participated in a week long RIE. "This is an excellent opportunity for our workers to implement their ideas on ways to make their operations more efficient," he said.**

The CMTH line takes a typical Army High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) – or what most people call a HUMVEE – and turns it into a mobile toolbox, giving mechanics in the field just about any tool they might

need, when they need it.

Before the Rapid Improvement Event, the production line consisted of eight workstations. The goal was to decrease the number of workstations, and improve workstation organization and supply management.

Lean allows work stations the opportunity to organize, revamp, and eliminate unnecessary steps in their processes,

such as wasted motion, too much paperwork, inventory buildup, or excessive setup time.

One technique to identify waste in a process is to ask the vital question: WHY are we doing this? Is this step necessary for our production, for our quality? The question is asked and answered up

to three times. If at the end of three "WHY's" there is still a valid answer, the step is retained. If not, the step can and should be eliminated.

David Bailey, the Rock Island Arsenal Champion of Lean, is very enthusiastic about

the process. "It really is about changing the current culture, and it is worth the time and effort. The benefits may not always be readily apparent. Much of the pay off is yet to come. I feel that Lean will help position Rock Island Arsenal for the future."

There are always some people who think that their operation is already Lean. But, according to Bailey, once they have been shown how Lean works, they get on board, go through the events, and become believers when they begin to see results.

"The big changes begin to happen in the second and third pass of a Rapid Improvement Event. The first pass shows up obvious problems and waste. The second, third and sometimes fourth passes show the waste that wasn't initially readily apparent," says Bailey.

Where does the CMTH line stand today? As a result of Lean, each station now draws supplies from a supermarket. Also, all of the tools and supplies have been identified, sorted, and labeled, (organized on a shadow board) making it quicker and easier for the workers to find the tools when they need them today. The line is definitely functioning more efficiently than before the event.

For more information, visit the RIA Lean Website at <https://home.ria.army.mil/sites/rialean/home/leanhome.cfm>.

# Workload continues to increase at RIA



**The M6 Pedestal Gun Mount**

New workload continues to come into RIA from a variety of customers as Operation Enduring Freedom continues. The most urgent requirements involve equipment that will provide additional protection to our soldiers.

These high priorities tie directly to an October memorandum from Gen. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff, and R. L. Brownlee, Acting Secretary of the Army, that stated "...we are directing that all measures to provide protection to our soldiers be placed on a top priority ...."

RIA has already responded to an emergency request from the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) for M6 Pedestal Gun Mounts and started producing them in October on a 24/7

basis. These gun mounts provide soldiers with a stable platform to mount their weapons on and allows them to swivel their weapons 360 degrees. At press time, RIA had produced 600 pedestals, and 400 had already been sent to Iraq.

Recently, TACOM sent additional M6 work to the Arsenal. The new work consists of several thousand M6 Adaptor Kits that allow the Pedestal Mounts to be mounted to the floor of the HMMWV. Production is scheduled to begin immediately.

Another item that will provide critical protection for our soldiers are armored doors for the HMMWV. The Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE), located here on Arsenal Island, decided to have the Arsenal and Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) in Alabama partner on this workload because of its urgent nature.

"The goal is to get our troops the protection they need as quickly as possible, and splitting the workload between two installations was the best way to do that," said Fred Smith, Deputy Director of GSIE. "In fact, it now looks like additional quantities will be required, and we are presently evaluating how best to distribute the work to our GSIE sites." Watervliet Arsenal, Rock Island

Arsenal, Red River Army Depot, Sierra Army Depot, Anniston Army Depot and Lima Army Tank Plant are all GSIE installations.

RIA is now in the planning stages for the armor door kits and production is scheduled to begin this month, pending receipt of the necessary raw materials.

New work has also come to RIA from the Army Field Support Command (AFSC). During the week of November 10, AFSC announced that approximately 300 trailers used in the global war on terrorism, including cargo trailers and tractor-trailers, need to be inspected, repaired and painted. The Arsenal is currently hiring additional temporary workers for this project and production is scheduled to begin in January with final delivery now scheduled for September 2004.



**The M6 Pedestal Gun Mount with weapon mounted. This significantly improves our soldiers' security in Iraq.**



# CFC Close to Goal

This year's Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign currently stands at \$474,886, hovering just below the goal of \$500,000.

While the campaign is almost finished on Arsenal Island, many of the major post offices in the local region have yet to report, making campaign leaders hopeful that the goal will still be reached.

"We know that many charities, particularly those that are located in our local area, really need our help this year because their state funding has been cut. They are looking to the CFC to help keep their services going," said Richard Jayne, CFC Chair.

Any federal or postal employee in the area that still wishes to give should contact their CFC keyperson, CFC chairperson, or call Richard Jayne, CFC Chair, at 782-6635. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 1.

## CFC Awards Ceremony set for Dec. 3

Everyone is invited to the CFC Awards Ceremony to be held on Dec. 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Blackhawk Conference Room on the third floor in building 110. Come to see who will win this year's CFC Leadership Award, which organization will be chosen as having the most innovative campaign, and which organizations will win the highest percent participation award and the highest average gift award. Refreshments will be served. Honorary CFC Chairperson, Maj. Gen. Wade H. McManus, Jr., of the Army Field Support Command, is scheduled to present the awards.

For more information on this year's campaign, visit the Illowa Bi-State CFC Website at [www.illowacfc.org](http://www.illowacfc.org).

## First ever RIA CFC Chili Cook-Off



Photos by Gale Smith

Joe Nobling fiddles at the very first Rock Island Arsenal Combined Federal Campaign Chili Cook-Off, held Oct. 29 in the 212 cafeteria. RIA had the cook-off to foster involvement in the CFC and to raise money for the campaign. Participants were (from left): Chuck Brooks, Tom Knapper, Teri Peters, Ken Johnson, Mary DeSmet, Tony Hunt, Bill Olsen, Barb Skinner, and Kent Lowenstein. The winner was Ken Johnson (not pictured).



# Housing and Playground Upgrades

By Jerry Sechser

Rock Island Arsenal Director of Public Works

The Rock Island Arsenal recently received over two million dollars for housing administration, housing maintenance and repair, and playground upgrades.

Most of the money was unplanned year-end fiscal year 2003 money, which created a significant challenge for the Directorate of Public Works. Employees had to get numerous projects scoped, estimated, and the contracts awarded before midnight September 30.

RIA attributes the tremendous success of this effort to their dedicated staff of both government employees and contractors working in partnership to meet the “year end” challenge. They worked numerous extra hours and late into the night on September 30 to complete all of the work. 80 projects totaling over \$10 million were approved and awarded in September alone.

As a result, there is significant work being done in both the 18 historical quarters and in the 40 Rodman Avenue townhouses. The projects in the historical quarters include repairing hazardous sidewalks and painting peeling porches. RIA will also repair the sidewalks in the townhouses, as well as insulate the attics. Projects also call for the replacement of old windows, patio doors and carport closest doors with new energy efficient models. Courtyard light fixtures and patios are also being upgraded.

Ms. Rhonda Brewer, Family Housing Office, said that scheduling and coordinating this much work is challenging, but that they have had excellent cooperation from all of the residents.

Public works also received over \$450,000 of “year-end” money to upgrade the playgrounds at Memorial Park, the Summer Day Camp site on Blunt Road and the playgrounds in the quarters. These projects include making some playground equipment accessible for use by those with disabilities, which will ensure ADA compliance, and will bring the playgrounds up to current safety codes. Signs, benches and refuse containers will also be installed. Construction is scheduled to start in late November.

All of this work is bringing long lasting improvements to the installation, and will improve the quality of life of our residents and visitors for many years to come.



Photo provided by Public Works  
Workers install a new patio at one of the housing units

# Army Community Service

## Not Just for the Military



by Jacqueline Chandler, Editor

Army Community Service (ACS) may be the best-kept secret on the Rock Island Arsenal.

This office, like a diamond, has many facets. This multi-skilled staff provides help with everyday problems or during a crisis. They give advice on everything from parenting skills to tax information. If they don't know the answer, they know where to get it. And with all this expertise the price is still incredibly free, not only to military personnel and their families but also to civilian employees, retirees and their families as well.

Penny Dixon oversees ACS and the Army Emergency Fund. "What better job could I have then taking care of our Arsenal family?" asks Dixon.

As missions change, relocation is often a fact of life for military and civilian personnel. Delia Dryfuss works in the Relocation Assistance Program and has welcome packets that list resources for the whole family, including an overview of the installation and the local community. The program has information on more than 460 military installations worldwide.

ACS also has a "lending locker" available which contains household, kitchen and childcare items for temporary use. This service is available to everyone, not just people that are relocating. Having family stay at your house for the holidays? Check out a futon. Have a grandchild coming for a weeks visit? Check out a crib or car seat.

Dryfuss is also a member of the team that provides briefings to units that may soon be deployed. Once a reservist or National Guard member is called to active duty, their families become part of the Arsenal family, and are eligible for the services that ACS provides.

Once a volunteer at ACS, Andrew Luna is now the InfoLink contact working with the United Way of the Quad Cities Area to assist with linking individuals and families to services and programs in the Quad Cities area.

Diana DeMeyer runs the Family Advocacy Program, which focuses on preventing spouse and

child abuse. Through a variety of programs and services she helps families through times of crisis. "Home visitation has been shown to be the best prevention of child abuse," says DeMeyer.

Jan Saito and Jill Carr are both registered nurses with the Families First Program, and offer parental education, home visits, as well as insights into the various stages of child development. This program is for active duty military only, however, civilians who are interested can call DeMeyer to obtain information on programs that parallel this service in the local community.

The Exceptional Family Member Program is a military only program, which requires families with special needs members to register with ACS for screening. If a military person relocates, the program can tell in advance if the medical and educational needs of that family member will be met at the new location. If a civilian is moving overseas, DeMeyer can also help, providing information about services in the overseas relocation area.

Jon Cook describes himself as the jobs and money guy. He offers services in Financial Readiness and Employment Readiness.

"I am not a placement counselor, I can't give you a job. I am not a money manager; I won't touch your money. What I am is a coach, you have to do the work," Jon said, "You will find that our ACS staff members are not lawyers or doctors, but we are skilled professionals who are available for coaching and counseling. We don't do things for people, we do things with people, and we like it."

Cook will coach you on how to build a resume/resumix, update your 201 personnel file, network and build interview skills. He is an accredited financial counselor and can help you with debt reduction, retirement planning, estate planning, scholarship searches, consumer complaint issues, and tax planning.

Linda Ottman is in charge of Army Family Team Building, the Volunteer Program and the Army Family Action Plan. Volunteers are vital components of island life. In the past five years there are people who have personally given over 1000 hours in



service to the community through this valuable program.

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is a grass roots program that addresses quality of life issues on the island. A panel is created to look into island issues such as hours of operation for the Commissary or Post Exchange, updating playground equipment, traffic flow and more. If the project is warranted for approval, the issue is resolved. If it is not resolved it can move to the MACOM level and if not resolved there, can move up the ladder to the Department of the Army level. One of the AFAP's biggest success stories is the Thrift Savings Plan.

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) provides training that helps families adapt to the transition from civilian to military life. It also enables soldiers and spouses to be more self-reliant, resilient and enhances overall family readiness. AFTB is a universal resource. Three levels of training are available. Levels 1 and 2 training in English or Spanish are available as online courses. Visit [ww.armyfamilyteambuilding.org](http://ww.armyfamilyteambuilding.org) for articles and training information.

ACS also maintains a library with several hundred books, video's, CD-ROM's, and audio books for check out. Subjects range from tax information, parenting skills, scholarships, to just about any life skill that you might need.

Any of the ACS staff will be happy to explain any of their services and programs more completely by phone at 782-0829. You can also visit them in building 110, first floor, southeast corner.

More information is also available on the RIA ACS website at <http://www.riamwr.com/acsnew.htm>.

## Golfers help the Army Emergency Relief Fund

Penny Dixon accepted a check for \$700 on behalf of the Army Emergency Relief Fund (AER) from retired Colonel Kruse representing the Fort Armstrong Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

AUSA raised the money through their fourth annual AUSA golf tournament this past summer.

The AER is an important resource for Army soldiers because it helps with emergency financial needs such as food, rent or utilities; transportation

and vehicle repair; funeral expenses and medical expenses.

Because of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the war on terrorism, many soldiers are away

from their families and this fund has become very important. Many of our soldiers are reservists and National Guard personnel. The civilian incomes that were supporting their families are generally suspended until they return to work, and active duty pay may not be enough to see their families through this crisis. "I have been writing a lot of emergency checks lately," Dixon said.

The fund can help families with interest-free loans, grants when a loan will cause undue hardship, or a combination of the two. It also gives out undergraduate scholarships to the children of soldiers based primarily on financial need. AER helps with day-to-day necessities but doesn't fund the purchasing of vehicles, vacations, repayment of credit cards, or the purchase of a new home.

AER is a private non-profit organization that incorporated in 1942. It merged with the former Army Relief Society (ARS) in 1976 whose mission was to assist Army widows and provide scholarships for dependent children.

AER does not receive government money and relies upon the Army-wide annual AER fund campaign conducted every year from March until mid-May for support, in addition to voluntary contributions from active and retired soldiers and Army civilians. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. The AER is not part of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Dixon, the Army Emergency Relief Officer,

can accept donations to AER at any time. Call (309) 782-0828 to donate or for assistance.

**Retired Colonel Kruse presents Penny Dixon with a check for the Army Emergency Relief Fund from the Fort Armstrong Chapter of the AUSA.**





## Vital Volunteers

The Rock is beginning a new monthly column called "Vital Volunteers" and will be highlighting some of the volunteers and the services they provide around the island.

In the past year over 600 people have volunteered, helping with special events such as Heritage Day, the Quad City Marathon and the Soldier Show.

Below are some of the of the organizations and programs that depend on volunteers for their success:

- Active Duty Spouse Group
- Army Community Service (ACS)
- Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop
- Child Development Center
- Col. Davenport House Historical Foundation
- Military Retiree Council
- RIA Community Chapel
- RIA Museum
- RIA Police Auxiliary
- RIA Women's Club
- MWR Special Events
- Junior Achievement
- Combined Federal

Campaign

If you would like more information or you would like to volunteer, please contact Linda Ottman at 309-782-0831.

## Fund Accepting Donations for Soldiers Families

The Iowa-Illinois Chapter, National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), has established a Soldier Fund to accept donations for families of area soldiers killed or injured in the helicopter attack in Iraq.

The association is a 501.c3 tax-exempt organization and all donations will be tax deductible. NDIA will match the first \$2,000 in donations at \$1 for every \$2 donated. All donations will go to families of the killed and injured, and none for administrative expenses, and it is expected other organizations will be adding to this fund.

Donations should be made by check, payable to NDIA "Soldier Fund", and mailed to: Iowa-Illinois Chapter National Defense Industrial Assn. c/o John Lohmann, treasurer; 14145 155th St.; Burlington, Iowa 52601.

## Support Military Families

You can show your support for American service members this holiday season through the "Gift of Groceries" program.

This program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates as presents for military family members. Only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. The certificates are not available for sale in commissaries. To purchase them call toll free 1-877-770-GIFT, go to the internet at <http://www.commissaries.com> and

purchase them on-line or print out the form to mail or fax for certificates.

Another way to show your support of military families is to help outstanding military children go to college. The Scholarships for Military Children program now allows anyone to donate to the program.

Go to <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. The site has information about the program and a donation page.

## Keep in Touch with Soldiers



Anyone wishing to correspond with or help servicemembers stay in touch with their families may do so using these web sites.

(1) <http://www.army.mil/tooursoldiers/messages/52.html>

(2) <http://www.anyservicemember.org/troops>.

(3) Donate a calling card through operation uplink at <http://www.operationuplink.org/>

(4) Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at

[www.operationdearabby.net](http://www.operationdearabby.net)

(5) Virtual thank you card at <http://www.defendamerica.mil/vetsday.html>

(6) Make a donation to one of the military relief societies:

Army Emergency Relief at

<http://www.aerhq.org>.

Navy/Marine relief society at <http://www.nmcra.org>.

Air Force aid society at <http://www.afas.org>.

Coast Guard mutual assistance at <http://www.cgma.org>.



Photo by Gale Smith

**RIA Sgt. Major Ortiz-Velasquez encouraged the runners and walkers on the starting line.**

## *Spirit Run/Walk*

On October 21, the Rock Island Arsenal, along with the Post Chapel, hosted a Spirit Run/Walk. The event was created to develop and foster camaraderie and esprit de corps within the RIA community, including service members and families, civilians, contractors and tenants.

About 40 people turned out on a chilly morning to participate in the run.

Chaplin Bowden of the AFSC/JMC will be spearheading this run/walk in the future. Plans are being made to make it a quarterly event.

## Smokers reminded “Practice Fire Prevention”

Smokers are reminded to please practice fire safety when they smoke on Arsenal grounds. Fire investigators determined that negligent smokers started two recent fires. A smoker flicking their smoldering cigarette butt into shrubbery located near the building caused the first fire near Building 390. Once ignited, the burning vegetation had flames leaping ten to fifteen feet into the air. Although the flames were doused by firefighters, recent fire catastrophes in Southern California and other areas have shown how quickly flames can spread and the damage that they can do.

This time of year piles of dry leaves and plant debris are a common sight. That is what ignited in a stairwell several weeks ago. It could have been disastrous if the burning material not been scooped up and moved out to a driveway to be put out. The stairwell was sprayed down with water and fortunately further damage was prevented.

Both fires occurred in the same general vicinity, indicating a need for heightened awareness and fire prevention steps to eliminate future dangerous situations. If you are a smoker please use approved receptacles only. If the area where you intend to smoke does not have an approved ashtray of some kind, it may not be an approved smoking area. The Commander’s smoking policy states, “...outside smoking areas will be at least 50 feet from entrances and exits, and cannot be located in area commonly used by nonsmokers or where any safety or occupational hazard exists.”



Old cigarette butts near a building.



Burned brush from recent fire

Photos provided by the RIA Fire Department

**Please submit story ideas for the ROCK by calling 782-1121.**



**Federal Employees Health Benefits** open season is Nov. 10-Dec. 8. All transactions must be done at [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil) or call 1-877-276-9287.

**Shopping Trips:** Dec. 13 - to Michigan Ave. in downtown Chicago. Bus leaves the parking lot of the Hampton Inn Hotel in Moline at 7 a.m. Cost is \$30 per person.

**Holiday Meals Delivered.** \$6.75 a plate. Minimum. of 10 orders per office. Meals consist of: Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Vegetable, Cranberries, and Roll/with butter. Serving utensils are available for a \$10.00 returnable deposit. Place orders 3 days in advance. Contact Jeff McMahon 2-3956.

**Pizza and Sub Discounts!** Lg. pizza for med. charge, any lg. pizza \$3 off, any specialty pizza for only \$9.99, & \$1 off any 12" Sub. Coupons available at the Arsenal Food Court. Offers expire December 31, 03. Call 793-4337 for more information.

**Thanksgiving Closures:** Fitness Center will be open the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, from 8:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. The Arsenal Club Bar will be CLOSED November 24 -28. All Restaurant programs (cafeterias and food court) will be CLOSED November 28.

**Holiday Shut Downs.** Friday, Nov. 28, the day after Thanksgiving, and Friday, December 26, the day after Christmas the following organizations are shutting down: Headquarters, Joint Munitions Command; Headquarters, Army Field Support Command; TACOM-RI; and Rock Island Arsenal. Other island activities are still considering shutdowns or reduced operations over the holiday periods.

**2003 Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.** Dec. 4, at 4:00 p.m. in front of Bldg 60. The St. Ambrose Choir will perform and there will be drawings for prizes. Candy canes, hot chocolate, cookies and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

**Holiday Ball** - Dec. 5 in the Arsenal Club, Bldg. 60. Everyone is invited. The menu is a choice of prime rib au jus or continental seafood-stuffed flounder hollandaise. Cost is \$30 per person. There is a reduced cost of \$20 per person for GS-9/WG-9/NAF-3 and below and \$10 per person for E-6 and below. Checks may be made payable to IMWRF. Los Mocambos will provide dance music. Dress for military personnel is mess dress, dress blue or class A with bow tie. Dress for civilians is business suit or tuxedo. If you want to support Toys for Tots you may bring a new, unwrapped toy or cash (no toy guns, knives, bow & arrows or weapons). The Davenport gate will be open until midnight. Reservations will be accepted until Nov. 26. Call 782-4316 or e-mail [bitnerj@ria.army.mil](mailto:bitnerj@ria.army.mil) for additional information. **For childcare for the Holiday Ball, call Children and Youth Services at 782-0791 by Dec. 1.**

**Toastmasters International** meets the first and third Wednesday of the month from 11:45 a.m. -1:00 p.m. For more information please call 794-5580 or 794- 5356.

**International Training and Communication Club:** (ITC), Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, Bldg 390, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Central Conference Room, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ITC is dedicated to teaching how to communicate more effectively. 782-5251.

**The Rock Island Arsenal Women's Club** is continuing its membership drive. Those eligible to join include: RIA civilian employees (current & retired) and all military (active duty, retired, & reserve) and/or their spouses. General membership meetings are luncheons, held the third Wednesday of the month. Call 283-0344.

**Multi-Functional Support Command.** This new organization augments the Army Field Support Command workforce when needed to support operations locally and overseas. It is located in building 390 on the second floor, south end. The phone numbers are 782-5896 and 782-5866.

**Holiday Loans.** The RIA Federal Credit Union is offering Holiday loans up to \$5000.00 at a special low annual percentage rate through December 31, 2003. Stop into any RIAFCU office or call 355-3800.

**Poinsettias:** Pre-order your holiday poinsettia for home, office or gift-giving! Choice of red, white, pink or marble for **only \$7.00**. Orders with payment will be taken on Nov. 18, 20, 25 & Dec. 2, 3, 4 at the Bldg 60 Post Restaurant and Bldg 350 Cafeteria. Proceeds from this fund raiser will support the Rock Island Arsenal Women's Club scholarships and welfare requests.